

May 2, 2013

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim*, Deemer, DeWitt,
Martin, Robbins, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioner Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna,
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan, and
Environmental Quality Officer Colclasure.

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to grant Commissioner Gobble an excused absence for the May 2, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

*Commissioner Chim arrived at 7:06 p.m.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner Martin, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble).

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6A. MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to approve the April 4, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE BEACON AWARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM.

Deputy Director Cessna provided background and noted that an overview of the Beacon Awards Program was included in agenda materials. She stated that the Beacon Awards Program is a statewide organization that all utilities belong to and is headed by the Institute for Local Government, an arm of California League of Cities. She reported that the program recognizes cities and counties that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use, and participation would allow the City to save money for lowering its electrical usage. She noted that the program would assist all participating South Bay cities by providing press releases and a website with valuable resources. She requested that the Commission forward a recommendation to City Council to approve a resolution to enter the program.

In response to Commissioner Martin's inquiry, she explained that Silver, Gold, and Platinum Beacon Award levels are given to agencies that reach specific measurable achievements, noting that Torrance may have already reached the Silver level.

Commissioner Chim arrived at 7:06 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved that the Commission forward a recommendation to City Council supporting the City's participation in the Beacon Award Recognition Program. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble; Commissioner Deemer abstaining).

Commissioner Deemer stated that he abstained from voting due to his concern that best practices for enterprise agencies such as the Airport might be at cross purposes with other required regulations.

Deputy Director Cessna explained that they would look at the Airport in terms of lighting and other physical infrastructure and not in terms of how aircraft fly.

7B. TEQECC WORK PLAN AND DISCUSSION OF PRESENTATION FOR JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL JUNE 11, 2013.

Deputy Director Cessna announced that the joint meeting of the Commission and City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. She presented a list of proposed work plan items to present to City Council at the meeting. She recommended not pursuing the work area involving the feeding of wild animals at this time, as any expansion of the current prohibition would also ban the feeding of feral cats.

MOTION: Commissioner Chim moved to remove work plan Item 7 Feeding of Wild Animals from the list of potential Commission work plan priorities to discuss with City Council on June 11, 2013. Commissioner DeWitt seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble).

Deputy Director Cessna offered to prepare brief draft presentations for each work plan priority and reminded Commissioners that the Commission would be meeting again before the joint meeting. She relayed Commissioner Gobble's suggestion that Commissioners focus on work plan areas that they need feedback on from City Council, and Commissioner DeWitt suggested presenting to City Council the different options that the Commission looked at for each topic of interest.

Deputy Director Cessna recommended adding a presentation on participation in the Beacon Award Program in discussions on the first item, Climate Action Planning. She advised allowing City Council to provide its input on the Commission's interest in regulating leaf blowers, Item 2, before moving forward. She noted that Item 3, Yard Sale Regulation, actually came to the Commission as a result of a City Council request. She presented staff's recommendation to allow quarterly yard sales, pointing out that it would be difficult to keep track of and enforce any more than that.

In response to Commissioner DeWitt's inquiry, she stated that the Antique Street Fair is in a commercial district and that the vendors all have business licenses.

Commissioner Robbins asked staff to bring back information regarding how surrounding cities are regulating yard sales.

Commissioners and staff discussed Item 4, Beekeeping and Urban Farming. Deputy Director Cessna stated that the City of Long Beach recently passed an ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens, adding that there are chickens being kept in Torrance but that no one has complained.

Commissioner Deemer asked staff to research why and when beekeeping and keeping chickens was prohibited in Torrance.

Referring to Item 5, Regulation of Outdoor Smoking Commissioner DeWitt expressed concern that the "D" rating that the City received could potentially impact tourism.

At Commissioner Martin's request, Deputy Director Cessna offered to find out the criteria for the rating.

Commissioner Deemer stated that he might recuse himself during discussions on this item at the joint meeting.

Deputy Director Cessna led a brief discussion regarding Item 6, Code Enforcement for Temporary Signs. She advised that enforcement would likely be part of the larger Zoning Code revision and would address newer types of temporary signage, such as sign twirlers. She explained that the Planning Commission approves permanent signs now but that Community Development is still responsible for enforcement of temporary signage.

All Commissioners indicated that they would be able to attend the June 11 joint meeting and it was decided that presenters would be selected at the June 6 Commission meeting. Prioritizing the list of items was discussed and there was a consensus to place Beekeeping and Urban Farming at the end of the list in case they run out of time.

Commissioners and staff discussed catering options, seating arrangement, and the possibility of having a PowerPoint presentation.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. Deputy Director Cessna stated that they are interviewing for the Environmental Quality Officer position and hope to have a full staff by the end of May.

8B. Commissioner Robbins initiated a brief discussion about the homeless population living under the Exxon Mobil overpass on Madrona Avenue.

8C. Commissioner Chim stated that she enjoyed Stanford Law Professor Buzz Thompson's presentation about water challenges and issues facing California.

8D. Chairperson Griffiths stated that Public Works is willing to plant a tree in front of a home if asked.

8E. Commissioner Martin announced a meeting on May 11 regarding the replacement of railing across from South High School.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:12 p.m., Commissioner DeWitt moved to adjourn the meeting to June 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Chim seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

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Approved as submitted June 6, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
